

House Concurrent Resolution No. 15

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1427L.021

1 **Whereas**, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death for all Americans and is the third
2 leading cause of death for young people aged 15 to 24, with more teenagers and young adults dying from
3 suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia and influenza, and
4 chronic lung disease combined; and
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6 **Whereas**, in 1997, suicide took the lives of 30,535 Americans and more than 700
7 Missourians; and
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9 **Whereas**, while males are four times more likely to die from suicide than females, with
10 white males accounting for 72% of all suicides, females are more likely to attempt suicide than are
11 males; and
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13 **Whereas**, suicide rates increase with age and are highest among Americans aged 65 years
14 and older; and
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16 **Whereas**, suicide rates for minorities, particularly African Americans, Hispanics and
17 Native Americans, have increased over the past ten years;
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19 **Whereas**, the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control is working to raise
20 awareness of suicide as a serious public health problem, and is focusing on science-based prevention
21 strategies to reduce injuries and deaths due to suicide; and
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23 **Whereas**, the Surgeon General's Call To Action introduces a blueprint for addressing
24 suicide through awareness, intervention and methodology (AIM) ; and
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26 **Whereas**, Missouri has a number of suicide and crisis hotlines in various regions of the
27 state, but lacks a statewide suicide hotline system:
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29 **Now, therefore, be it resolved** by the members of the House of Representatives
30 of the Ninety-first General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, that a Joint
31 Interim Committee the General Assembly be created to be composed of five members of the House of
32 Representatives, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, with no more than three
33 such members from the same political party, and five members of the Senate, appointed by the President
34 Pro Tem and Co-Pro Tem of the Senate, with no more than three such members from the same political
35 party, and that said committee be authorized to function during the interim between the First and Second
36 Regular Sessions of the Ninety-first General Assembly; and
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38 **Be it further resolved** that said committee make a comprehensive study on suicide
39 prevention, the creation of a suicide prevention fund and the establishment of a statewide suicide hotline,
40 including the solicitation of information from appropriate state agencies and the public on the social,
41 economic, educational and health implications of suicide;
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43 **Be it further resolved** that the committee be authorized to hold hearings as it deems
44 advisable, and that the staffs of House Research, Senate Research and the Committee on Legislative
45 Research provide such legal, research, clerical, technical and bill drafting services requested by the
46 committee; and
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48 **Be it further resolved** that the committee, its members, and any staff personnel
49 assigned to the committee shall receive reimbursement for their actual and necessary expenses incurred
50 in attending meetings of the committee or any subcommittee thereof; and
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52 **Be it further resolved** that the committee report its recommendations and findings
53 to the Missouri General Assembly by January 1, 2002, and the authority of such committee shall
54 terminate on December 31, 2001; and
55

56 **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
57 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the Speaker of
58 the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tem of the Senate.